

New light law effective January 1, 2018

Effective January 1, 2018 the Tennessee Code in regards to lights on vehicles will change. The State Legislature approved Public Chapter 378 to amend portions of the statute relative to lights displayed on vehicles. The specific Tennessee code, 55-9-402(d), once effective, will state "*no vehicle operated in this state shall be equipped with any steady-burning lights that display to the front of the vehicles in any color other than white or amber or in any combination of colors other than white and amber, except for the following vehicles:*" There are exceptions provided for specialized vehicles and the statute sets out what those exceptions are. The statute uses the term 'equipped', indicating the vehicle cannot have lights on the front of the vehicle other than white or amber, whether turned on or not. The red, blue, green, or other color lights would therefore be prohibited on the front of the vehicle. The statute further prohibits "*the equipping of vehicles with any flashing lights in any combination of colors that display to the front of the vehicle, other than factory installed emergency flashers, except as provided in this section:*" Again, the exceptions are described in the statute. The violation of the statute could result in a fine and court cost of \$130 in the Tullahoma Municipal Court. The Public Chapter in its entirety can be read at: <http://publications.tnsosfiles.com/acts/110/pub/pc0378.pdf> . The articles presented do not constitute legal advice. Questions about the Tennessee Code should be directed to an Attorney. Any questions about Tullahoma police operations can be directed to me at (931) 455-0530, or pblackwell@tullahomatin.gov.